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REPORT

ON THE

Public Health Services

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

B. C. HALLER, M.A. (Cantab.), L.R.C.P. (Edin.),
D.P.H. (Camb.),
Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

F. BARNETT, A.R.San.I.
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Department,
23, Wellington Road,
Bilston, Staffs.

September 1946.

William Woolley Ltd., Printers, Bilston.

STAFF
of the
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.
Whole Time Officers.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
MEDICAL OFFICER FOR MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE,
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER :

B. C. HALLER, M.A., (Cantab.), L.R.C.P.E., L.R.C.S.E., D.P.H. (Camb.).

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER :

HELENA M. SHANKS, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.), D.P.H. (Glas.)

PART TIME OFFICER (MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE) :

JANE A. NAGLE, M.B., B.Ch.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR,
INSPECTOR UNDER THE CANAL BOATS ACT,
INSPECTOR UNDER THE HOUSING CONSOLIDATED REGULATIONS, 1925,
AND LODGING HOUSE INSPECTOR :

F. BARNETT, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., Certificated Meat Inspector.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS :

G. E. S. SHELDON, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., Certificated Meat Inspector.

W. L. KAY, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., Certificated Meat Inspector.

HEALTH VISITORS :

Miss N. R. Hawkins, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.R.C.N.
Miss M. Parker, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert. H.V. (R.S.I.)
Miss C. Read, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert. H.V. (R.S.I.).

CLERICAL STAFF :

Mrs. A. Mears.
Miss M. J. Corbett (W.R.N.S.)
Mrs. P. Bouckley (Temporary)
Miss J. A. Lewis.
Miss J. Mosley (appointed July, 1945)
C. J. Pearce (appointed September, 1945)
E. R. Whittingham (appointed May, 1945)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1945.

The following are brief statistics for the year :—

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA :

Area	1,890 acres
Population : 1931 Census	31,248
Estimated Population for Year	30,330
Estimated Number of Inhabited Houses for the year	7,771
Rateable Value	£133,732

Extracts from Vital Statistics :

	Total	Males	Females	
Live Births	553	278	275	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 18.23
(Legitimate)	528	264	264	
(Illegitimate)	25	14	11	
Still Births	18	10	8	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Stillbirths) 18.83

	Total	Males	Females	
Deaths	352	180	172	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.61

Comparability Factor : Not available for 1945.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

(Headings 29 and 30) of the Registrar General's short list.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	2	3.50

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	77.76
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	77.65
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	80.00

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	42
,, Measles (all ages)	4
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	6

Details of the Births in each Ward are given in Table I, and particulars for the last five years in Table 2.

TABLE 1.

Ward.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New Town	51	46	97
High Town	12	23	35
Town Hall	102	114	216
Bradley	41	31	72
Ettingshall	36	47	83
Out of District	36	14	50
Total	278	275	553

TABLE 2.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Birth Rate per 1,000.
1945	278	275	553	18.23
1944	327	305	632	20.64
1943	329	319	648	21.18
1942	346	296	642	20.94
1941	299	298	597	19.35

Table 3 shows the number of deaths in each Ward; Table 4 gives the details for the last five years; and Table 5 the ages at which death occurred.

TABLE 3.

Ward.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New Town	19	24	43
High Town	13	12	25
Town Hall	35	34	69
Bradley	31	28	59
Ettingshall	17	23	40
Out of District	57	59	116
Total	172	180	352

TABLE 4.

Deaths.				Death Rate per 1,000
Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1945	172	180	352	11.61
1944	182	147	329	10.74
1943	191	156	347	11.34
1942	178	112	290	9.46
1941	193	159	352	11.41

TABLE 5.

Under 1 year	43
1 and under 2 years	5
2 and under 5 years	3
5 and under 15 years	8
15 and under 25 years	19
25 and under 45 years	44
45 and under 65 years	101
65 and under 80 years	106
80 years and upwards	23
Total	352

The following table shows the causes of death and gives particulars of the number of males and females dying from various diseases :—

TABLE 6.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	2
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Diphtheria	1	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	14	14	28
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	3	4
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	7	4	11
Measles	2	2	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	15	27	42
Diabetes	—	3	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	7	10	17
Heart Disease	36	27	63
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	2	5
Bronchitis	18	11	29
Pneumonia. (all forms)	12	9	21
Other Respiratory Diseases	5	6	11
Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum	3	1	4
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	2	4	6
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	3	4	7
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	6	5	11
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	2	2
Premature Birth	8	3	11
Congenital Debility, Malformation, etc.	3	6	9
Suicide	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents	2	—	2
Other Violent Causes	2	—	2
All Other Causes	18	35	53
Totals	172	180	352

TABLE 7.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, and Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain infectious diseases in the Year 1945. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	County Boro's and Great Towns including London	Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	BILSTON
	Rates per 1,000 Population			
Births :				
Live	16.1	19.1	19.2	18.23
Still	0.46	0.58	0.53	0.59
Deaths :				
All Causes	11.4	13.5	12.3	11.61
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.03
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.13
Influenza	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.36
	Rates per 1,000 live births			
Deaths under 1 year of age	46	54	43	77.76
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.6	7.8	4.5	10.85
	Rates per 1,000 Population			
Notifications :				
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	—	0.01	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.07
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.58
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.65	1.47	3.23
Diphtheria	0.46	0.52	0.56	1.35
Erysipelas	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.30
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	11.67	10.89	11.19	5.44
Pneumonia	0.87	1.03	0.72	2.34
	Rates per 1,000 (live and still) Births			
Puerperal Fever / Puerperal Pyrexia	9.93	12.65	8.81	1.8

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Maternal Mortality :

There were no deaths from Puerperal Pyrexia.

There were two deaths from other Puerperal causes. The certified causes given were :—

Toxaemia of Pregnancy ..... 2.

Ante-Natal Clinics :

Dr. J. A. Nagle conducts these clinics which are held every Friday and every other Thursday.

All the salaried midwives attend with their own cases. A Health Visitor and clerk assist at each session.

The attendances for 1945 were :—

New Cases	.....	512
Re-visits	.....	1799

Health Visiting :

All notified births are visited. Close co-operation between the local Registrar and this Department is kept up. Advice as to proper care of the home, mother, baby and toddler is given on every available opportunity. Special attention is paid to nutrition of the individual and to the preparation and storage of food in the home.

Visits made by the Health Visitors were as follows :

		Primary	*Secondary*
Children under 1 year	.....	472	1772
Children over 1 year	.....	10	6833
Ante-Natal Cases	.....	186	171
Tuberculosis Cases	.....	60	341

Boarded Out Children :

A register is kept of all known cases in the area. The cases are visited monthly and reported on by the Health Visitors who act as Infant Life Protection Visitors.

Welfare Centres :

Welfare Centres are held on three afternoons a week. The Centres are under the Control of the Medical Officer of Health who is assisted on each occasion by two Health Visitors, a clerk and two or three members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee.

The attendances at the Centres were as follows :—

	District A.	*District B.*	*District C.*
Mothers	2728	2069	2608
Babies	2245	1604	2154
Toddlers	326	354	266
New Cases.			
Babies	143	109	125
Toddlers	14	20	29

Infantile Mortality :

The deaths of children under one year of age numbered 43 giving an infantile mortality rate of 77.76 per 1,000 births.

Table 8 shows the causes of death and ages at which they occurred and Table 9 the number of deaths in each ward.

TABLE 8.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR	Total deaths	Under 1 week	1–2 weeks	2–3 weeks	3–4 weeks	1–3 months	3–6 months	6–9 months	9–12 months
Gastro Enteritis	6	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	—
Congenital Malformation	9	3	—	—	—	3	1	1	1
Premature Birth	11	9	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Bronchitis	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia	9	—	—	2	—	2	3	1	1
Suffocation	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
TOTAL —	43	12	1	4	—	9	6	9	2

TABLE 9.

Ward.	Males.	Females.	Total.
New Town	5	5	10
High Town	1	1	2
Town Hall	6	1	7
Bradley	3	6	9
Ettingshall	2	2	4
Out of District	3	8	11
Total	20	23	43

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are held on four afternoons each week.

The number of Children immunised is as follows :—

Children under 5 years of age	513
Children over 5 and under 15 years	273
TOTAL	786

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of Children who had completed a Full Course of Immunisation at any time up to 31.12.45.

Age at 31.12.45. *i.e.* Born in year :—	Under 1 1945	1 1944	2 1943	3 1942	4 1941	5-9 1936-1940	10-14 1931-1935	Total Under 15
Mumber Immunised	66	280	234	321	225	2036	1787	4949

Scabies.

Five Clinics are held weekly at the Cleansing Station rear of 23, Wellington Road. The total number of cases treated was 566.

Promotion of Cleanliness and Good Habits and the Elimination of Verminous Conditions :

The Health Visitors and School Nurses co-operate very closely with each other and in the general scheme of this work.

Lethane Hair Oil is used in the Clinic and also is given to mothers for use in the homes when found necessary. Instructions are given at the same time as to its use and for the care and toilet of the hair. Advice on Hygiene and good habits generally is tendered to mothers when routine and special visits are paid to homes, particular attention being paid to those homes most in need of it and all cases are followed up regularly.

Families have been sent to Institutions for cleansing when the need has arisen.

Legal action has been taken when necessary in cases of tenants who have persistently failed to keep themselves and their houses clean in spite of the advice and attention given by the Nurses and repeated visits and disinfestation of the homes by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Day Nursery.

The Day Nursery, situated in Prouds Lane, Bilston, will accommodate 40 children, ages ranging from 0 to 5 years. It is open daily from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the average attendance was 31 daily.

The staff comprises :—Matron
Deputy Matron
1 Certificated Nursery Nurse
1 Warden
1 Nursery Assistant
2 Probationers
1 Cook

The Care of Premature Infants :

The three Health Visitors took a final course (of a fortnight each) at the Sorrento Maternity Home, Birmingham, through the kindness and co-operation of the Medical Officers concerned in the Public Health Department, Birmingham.

The weight of the baby is entered on the Birth Notification Cards.

Special Cots and equipment are provided for use in the home.

Supply of Sheets for Expectant Mothers :

386 priority dockets were issued to 193 applicants.

Care of Illegitimate Children :

The Council approved a scheme submitted by the Welfare Authority whereby the responsibility for the detailed administration of the scheme shall be in the hands of the Woman Probation Officer of the Staffordshire County Council, the Health Visitors of the Welfare Authority and the Ladies Voluntary Committee as constituted by the Welfare Authority, all acting under the general supervision of the Medical Officer of Health of the Welfare Authority.

The duties to be undertaken by the persons mentioned shall comprise all those suggested in the Circular.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Full details of the sanitary circumstances of the area have been given in previous reports.

Water.

The water supply in the area is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

During the year 13 bacteriological samples were taken : 3 from the Rising Main at the Bratch, 4 from the Covered Reservoirs at Coton Road, 3 from Tomhill Waterworks and 3 from private supplies in the town.

In each case the samples were satisfactory.

The water supply has 13.60 degrees of hardness before boiling, and the waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Housing.

The applications for houses are increasing in numbers.

Clearance Areas.

A representation was made in 1945 in respect of nine areas affecting 1,504 houses and 5,640 persons.

This is a preliminary to further representations.

Overcrowding.

Owing to war conditions it has been impossible to build houses to abate overcrowding.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The work of food inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors, and details are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

Milk Supply and Food Adulteration.

The work under this heading is controlled by the County Council whose officers carry out the necessary work of sampling.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Table 10 shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, cases admitted to Hospital and the known deaths.

TABLE 10.

Infectious Diseases : Cases admitted to Hospital and Total Deaths.

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	48	36	—
Diphtheria	41	41	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Pneumonia	71	—	21
Erysipelas	9	5	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	2
Measles	165	1	4
Whooping Cough	98	3	1
Dysentery	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	4	4	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	2	2	—

This department has no knowledge of cases of Pneumonia removed to Hospital. Such cases are usually treated at the Royal Hospital, or the New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton. Public Assistance cases are taken to Wordsley Institution.

Tuberculosis. TABLE 11.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Age Period	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and upward	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1 ,, ...	1	–	2	2	–	–	1	1
5 ,, ...	–	2	2	3	1	–	–	1
15 ,, ...	5	12	–	4	3	9	–	1
25 ,, ...	7	1	–	1	3	4	–	–
35 ,, ...	4	1	–	–	2	1	–	–
45 ,, ...	4	1	–	–	4	–	–	–
55. ,, ...	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
65 ,, ...	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Totals	23	17	4	10	14	14	1	3

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1945

Herewith is submitted a report of the Sanitary Inspector of the Borough for the year 1945 being his thirty-fourth annual report.

Routine Inspections.

Details of the inspections made during the year are as follows :—

1.	Visits in connection with complaints, re-inspections and work in progress	1946
2.	Houses inspected (for minor defects)	583
3.	Houses inspected (detailed inspections under Housing Acts)	1192
4.	Houses inspected (cleanliness of tenants)	588
5.	Visits re overcrowding	152
6.	Visits re infectious cases	114
7.	Drains tested	110
8.	Visits to food shops and food preparing premises	298
9.	Visits to bakehouses	58
10.	Visits to fried fish shops	81
11.	Visits re slaughter of animals	216
12.	Visits to factories	24
13.	Smoke—Observations, Inspections and Visits	790
14.	Visits re caravans	246
15.	Visits re rodent control	1127
16.	Miscellaneous, including cleansing	907
		8432

Complaints.

The number of complaints received during the year was 683; 136 in respect of alleged nuisances or sanitary defects and 547 in connection with choked drains or water closets. All complaints were dealt with.

Notices.

The number of notices served during the year was 1130—Informal Notices 875, Statutory Notices 255. Notices served on owners 975, on occupiers 155.

Details of the Statutory Notices served :—

	Issued	Complied	Complied by Council	Justices Order	Not Complied
Sec. 92-93 Public Health Act 1936	193	178	—	—	15
Sec. 75 Public Health Act, 1936	23	23	20	—	—
Sec. 83 Public Health Act, 1936	3	3	—	—	—
Sec. 39 Public Health Act, 1936	36	36	35	—	—
	255	240	55	—	15

No legal proceedings were necessary. The 15 notices not complied with at the end of the year were dealt with early in 1946.

Sanitary Improvements.

The total number of improvements made in compliance with notices served was 2,166 and the number of premises affected by these improvements 1,256.

Details of the improvements are given below :—

Improvements in connection with :—

1. Drainage 186
2. Sanitary Accommodation 147
3. Washing Accommodation 145
4. Houses internal repairs 316
5. Houses external repairs 457
6. Tenants general cleanliness 277
7. Ashbins provided 451
8. Caravans removed 119
9. Miscellaneous improvements 60

Cleanliness of Tenants in Council Houses.

During the year 588 Corporation houses have been inspected. There is need for the constant inspection of a large number of the Corporation houses. In addition to the dirty and verminous tenants there are many who fail to keep the premises and furniture clean and who neglect and mis-use sanitary appliances.

The number of informal notices served on the occupiers to remedy conditions was 113 and the number of Statutory Notices 3. No legal proceedings were necessary.

The number of houses found to be dirty or verminous was 72 or 12.2% of the houses inspected :

Drity and verminous	39
Dirty but not verminous	33

Meat and Food Inspection.

The only animals slaughtered in the Borough during the year were pigs (Self Supply). The number of carcases examined was 568.

The number of visits made to food shops, food preparing premises and in connection with the slaughter of animals was 811.

The amount of unsound food destroyed was 4 tons 3 cwts. 17 lbs.

Details of the foodstuffs destroyed are given below :—

	Cwts.	*lbs.*
Fish	18	13
Meat	15	20
Rabbits	6	67
Bacon	4	33
Butter and Margarine	3	3
Cheese		56
Eggs		79
Sugar		74
Jam		39
Chocolate and Sweets		40
Peas and Beans	2	23
Dried Fruits	4	70
Biscuits and Flour		88
Tinned Goods	25	84

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

The number of houses disinfected after infectious cases was 109 and the number of verminous houses disinfested 81.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two registered common lodging houses. They are not now used by travellers but are occupied by families as permanent residents.

Both of the houses are dilapidated. They cannot be re-conditioned ; are included in Clearance Areas and will be demolished as soon as possible.

Canal Boats Act.

Thirty-six visits have been made to the canal for the purpose of boat inspection but no registered boats have been seen.

Obstructions in Drains and Water Closets.

Choked drains and water closets are cleared by employees of the Corporation without charge to the owners or occupiers. The number of properties dealt with during the year is 544. This figure does not include obstructions removed from Corporation houses by the Housing Department.

The majority of the obstructions are due to default or neglect of the occupiers.

Factory Act 1937.

During the year 7 complaints have been received from H. M. Inspector of Factories. The defects complained of have been remedied.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

There are 151 registered milk shops and two cowsheds. Bottled milk only is sold from the milk shops.

One of the cowsheds is old and dilapidated. This farm is being bought for housing development and the shed will be demolished. The other shed is old ; but is kept in a clean condition. It requires re-construction but this is not practicable at present.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

The number of complaints received during the year was 109. The number of premises baited 196. The total number of visits made in connection with these was :—1127. The estimated kill was 1,630 and the number of dead rats found 326.